fidently assumed that his momeat had at last come, Mr. Baldwin formed his first Government, described contemptuously by Lord Birkenhead as consisting of 'second-class brains[5]. Out of this unpromising material he constructed a citadel of mediocrity, a Government of None of the Talents, which has successfully withstood all assaults made upon it, whether from the Left or the Right; which still stands, and in which, incidentally, Lord Birkenhead was glad for a time to find a not very exalted place. Though now in retirement, and an earl, Mr. Baldwin may be regarded as the architect of his country's present leadership, whose personnel he for the most part chose, and whose outcasts he excluded; whose sentiments echo his, and whose technique follows, though less adroitly, the technique he practised.

His portly figure filled a vacuum, and when the pressure of air trying to rush in became uncomfortable, withdrew. The termination of his career was as well-chosen as its beginning— if, indeed, it has terminated. It would never be surprising to have him back again; to hear once more that mellow, amiable voice explaining how he has torn himself away from Wordsworth's *Excursion,* and pleasant Worcestershire walks, in response to the call of duty; how all must pull along together, masters and men, high and low, and how he is a plain, blunt man, whose mind works slowly, with no cut-and-dried programme to put

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the initials F.S.T. with the little noticed Financial Secretary of the Treasury, though the letter bears unmistakable traces of Mr. Baldwin's style, so characteristic, and later so well-known—*I have been

considering this matter for nearly two years but my mind moves slowly; I dislike publicity, and I hoped that someone else might lead the way.' When, as Mr. Arthur Bryant puts it in his *Stanley Baldwin,* *undcr the glaring publicity that floods every past action of a man who has become Prime Minister*, Mr. Baldwin's voluntary sacrifice became generally known, the fact that it had been made secretly (Mr. J. G C. Davidson, later Chairman of the Conservative Party and raised **to** the peerage, was the only friend to whom. Mr. Baldwin confided his intention to relinquish a fifth of his wealth) added to its appeal. According **to** Mr. Bryant, one person only was induced by Mr. Baldwin's letter to fbllowhis example, though how much the Exchequer gained thereby is not known.